

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7111

BILL NUMBER: SB 578

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 14, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Truancy.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Taylor

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
☐ **FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Education in cooperation with the Department of Child Services and a court with jurisdiction to develop a program for parents of habitual truants to attend parenting classes administered by the Department of Child Services.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to coordinate a program with the Department of Child Services (DCS) and courts with jurisdiction to develop a program for the parents of habitually truant children that will be administered by DCS. The legislation is silent on program content, except that the program itself is offered to the parents of delinquent children. This bill will increase the workload and expenditures of DOE and DCS to partner together to create the program and of DCS in order to administer the program.

DCS reports that most of the Community Partners DCS works with provide programming for parents of habitually truant children. DCS expenditures to provide programming can be minimized to the extent these currently offered programs are used to satisfy the requirements of the bill.

The number of habitually truant children is unavailable at the current time. [This information will be updated as it is made available by the Department of Education.]

Explanation of State Revenues: *Penalty Provision:* This bill may increase the number of adults who are subject to proceedings for the truancy of their children. Truancy is considered a Class B misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines)

and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill requires courts to also participate in the creation of the program. As a result, workload for court personnel will increase.

Penalty Provision: A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

State Agencies Affected: DOE; DCS.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Ann Houseworth, DCS; Terri Banks, DOE.

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